United Nations A/C.5/64/SR.27

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 27th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 19 March 2010 at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Maurer ..... (Switzerland)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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10-27999 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 130: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat (A/C.5/64/L.34)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.34: Towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

1. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.34 was adopted.*

Agenda item 132: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/C.5/64/L.32)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.32: Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.32 was adopted.*

3. **Mr. Lim** (Singapore) said that special political missions were a sensitive matter for many Member States, which had taken a keen interest in how those missions were authorized, in particular, by the Security Council. Moreover, the budgets of such missions had grown exponentially in recent years. Measures should therefore be taken to increase transparency and improve the methods by which those missions were authorized. There should be better communication between the Security Council and the Committee, which was responsible for approving the missions' budgets.

4. His delegation had proposed that the draft resolution should include language stressing the need to present estimates in respect of special political missions in a more comprehensive and holistic manner. It was imperative for budget proposals for special political missions to be submitted on time in order to allow the Committee to make informed decisions on proposals that consumed the lion's share of the regular budget.

5. Although many delegations had expressed their support for that proposal, a few Member States, particularly those that were the strongest supporters of special political missions, had objected that the Committee was asking the Secretariat to do the impossible or that the timing of the proposal was not suitable.

6. The first objection was ironic in view of the number of times the General Assembly had pushed the Secretariat to fulfil new mandates from within existing resources. As to the timing of the proposal, Member States should seize any opportunity to effect improvements that were in the interest of the Organization's primary stakeholders. Member States frequently called on the Organization to be more nimble and responsive and should expect no less of themselves.

Conditions of service for the ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/64/C.5/L.33)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.33: Conditions of service for the ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

7. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.33 was adopted.*

Agenda item 138: Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.29)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.29: Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2009 and programme of work for 2010

8. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.29 was adopted.*

Agenda item 141: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272 (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.31)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.31: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.31 was adopted.*

10. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled the importance of the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in strengthening accountability and oversight throughout the United Nations. The Group hoped that the full implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC) would enhance cooperation between management and OIOS. Increased engagement and dialogue among relevant

stakeholders in the Secretariat would enable OIOS to better assist the Secretary-General in carrying out his internal oversight responsibilities.

11. Recalling that the non-renewable five-year term of office of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services would expire in July 2010, the Group urged the Secretary-General to ensure that timely arrangements were made to find a successor in full conformity with the provisions of paragraph 5 (b) of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B.

Agenda item 142: Administration of justice at the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/64/L.30)

Draft decision A/C.5/64/L.30: Administration of justice at the United Nations

12. *Draft decision A/C.5/64/L.30 was adopted.*

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the first part of the resumed sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

13. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Committee had been able to reach agreement on all matters thanks to the spirit of cooperation that had prevailed at the first part of the resumed session. He trusted that the Committee would continue its work at the second part of the resumed session in that same spirit.

14. **Mr. Peralta-Momparler** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said his delegation wished to express its satisfaction that the Committee had completed its work within the time allotted and had reached consensus on all matters.

15. **Ms. Pakarati** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that, thanks to the hard work of all, the Committee had been able to adopt draft resolutions on a number of important matters, including strengthening of the Organization's emergency preparedness, limited budgetary discretion and accountability in the Secretariat.

16. The Group was pleased that agreement had been reached on the general principles of an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat, including the obligation of officials at all levels to take responsibility for their decisions and actions and the need to recover monies in respect of any financial losses resulting from fraud.

17. All ongoing discussions within the United Nations system, including those on system-wide coherence, should take into account the role and function of the Committee.

18. The Group looked forward to discussing the Department of Field Support's proposal for a global field support strategy and the proposed budgets of the various peacekeeping operations, in particular the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), at the second part of the resumed sixty-fourth session and trusted that the relevant reports would be available shortly.

19. **Mr. Cumberbatch** (Cuba) said that the Committee's handling of the questions of accountability and limited budgetary discretion called to mind an issue that had shaped Member States' perception of the Secretariat throughout the Organization's history.

20. Despite the unjust nature of the international order, it was difficult to imagine a world without the United Nations. The Organization's senior officials should therefore be cognizant of the tremendous responsibility they bore. Those officials must take responsibility for their actions in implementing the decisions of Member States and avoid even the semblance of partiality.

21. It should be recalled that Member States were diverting resources from the public purse that could be used for national economic development in order to fund United Nations programmes and activities. Member States were therefore very attentive to the manner in which those resources were utilized.

22. In that connection, his delegation wished to draw attention to the use of questionable methods by certain delegations and the Secretariat with regard to actions taken in connection with system-wide coherence and the Department of Field Support's proposal for a global field support strategy. Not for the first time, certain Secretariat officials and Member States, unable to achieve their objectives through open and transparent negotiations, had resorted to parallel processes or, in some instances, had blatantly violated established mandates in order to advance their interests.

23. Recalling that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, he urged the Secretariat and

Member States to avoid such methods, which only served to sow mistrust among Member States and between Member States and the Secretariat.

24. **Mr. Sugiyama** (Japan) said his delegation wished to express its satisfaction that the Committee had completed its work on time and without deferring any items to the second part of the resumed session. It was also pleased that, in keeping with the Committee's tradition, all draft resolutions had been adopted by consensus.

25. His delegation was gratified that Member States had decided to continue the current arrangements for the exercise of limited discretionary authority by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2010-2011, although it regretted that the amount of the commitment authority had not been increased.

26. After an exchange of courtesies in which **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, **Mr. Mir** (United Kingdom), **Mr. Melrose** (United States of America), **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **Mr. Brant** (Brazil), **Mr. Tawana** (South Africa) and **Mr. Loy** Hui Chien (Singapore) took part, the **Chairman** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the first part of the resumed sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/64/SR.28

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 28th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 May 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Maurer ..... (Switzerland)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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10-34022 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Organization of work (A/C.5/64/L.35)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider the proposed tentative and provisional programme of work for the second part of the resumed sixty-fourth session, prepared on the basis of a note by the Secretariat on the status of preparedness of documentation (A/C.5/64/L.35).

2. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that many of the items to be taken up involved peacekeeping operations, which were of critical importance to the Group. He trusted that the programme of work would be adjusted as warranted by developments in the Committee's deliberations and the availability of documents.

3. **Mr. Oyarzun** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that maintaining international peace and security was a core function of the United Nations. The European Union, mindful of the need for efficiency and budgetary discipline as well as the need for adequate resources for the implementation of peacekeeping mandates, would judge the Secretary-General's proposed budgets for peacekeeping operations on their merits. During the discussions on cross-cutting issues, including the proposed global field support strategy, the Union would strive for effective and efficient peacekeeping as well as improvements in how the United Nations discharged its mandates in the areas of peace and security. The European Union considered it a priority to have funds in closed peacekeeping accounts returned to Member States in accordance with the Organization's Financial Regulations and Rules.

4. While he welcomed the efforts made by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to improve the timely issuance of documents, it was unfortunate that some documents were still unavailable.

5. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, reaffirmed the Charter obligation to fund peacekeeping operations, and said that any delay in adopting peacekeeping budgets, as had occurred at the second part of the resumed sixty-third session, would signal that Member States no longer valued peacekeeping missions. In that regard, the Group would not accept any negotiations that involved a package deal. Across-the-board cuts that failed to take into account the specific challenges and mandates of missions would put missions in jeopardy, and would undermine trust and mutual respect. The peacekeeping budget level proposed for 2010/11 was appropriate; any reduction in the level of appropriations for specific missions should be based on objective grounds.

6. Member States owed a debt of gratitude to the more than 100,000 blue helmets who were often in harm's way, but stayed true to the values and goals of the United Nations.

7. **Ms. Pakarati** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that urgent attention should be given to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which required additional resources not covered by the Mission's regular peacekeeping budget.

8. The Group also attached great importance to the proposed global field support strategy, which would make peacekeeping operations more efficient and effective.

9. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, conveyed the Group's condolences to the Government and people of China for the devastation and deaths caused by the recent earthquake.

10. The Group deeply admired United Nations peacekeepers for their commitment to that noble cause and paid special tribute to those who had laid down their lives in the line of duty.

11. Despite some improvements in the timely issuance of documentation, the failure to make all documents on peacekeeping budgets available well in advance affected the quality of decision-making by Member States. The Secretary-General should address the factors impeding timely issuance in order to bring the Secretariat into strict compliance with the six-week rule. Further improvement of the communication between the Bureau and secretariat of the Fifth Committee and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee would help synchronize the work of the two bodies.

12. **Mr. Melrose** (United States of America) expressed his delegation's respects to those who had lost their lives while discharging their obligations as United Nations peacekeepers and to their families. He commended the hard work and commitment of all United Nations personnel involved in the difficult task of peacekeeping.

13. An unprecedented number of military and civilian peacekeepers were currently deployed in the field, while the proposed budgets for peacekeeping missions totalled over $8 billion, some four times the annual level of the regular budget. His delegation was committed to providing the necessary resources and support services to allow peacekeeping missions to fulfil their mandates. At the same time, given the financial constraints facing all governments, vigilance was required to ensure that resources were used effectively, efficiently and transparently. His delegation was also committed to continuous improvement in the performance and management of missions and to that end it supported, in principle, the adoption of a global field support strategy that would deliver efficiencies and economies of scale as well as strengthened accountability and more rapid deployment of missions.

14. **Mr. Sugiyama** (Japan) said that the Secretariat should make further efforts to comply with the six-week rule for the issuance of documents, as not all reports to be taken up by the Committee at the current part of the resumed session were available.

15. It was regrettable that no cross-cutting resolution on peacekeeping had been adopted in the previous two years, since such a resolution could lead to a more efficient use of resources. His delegation wished to see a successful conclusion to deliberations on that issue — including the proposed global field support strategy — at the current session.

16. The programme of work should be adjusted as required and items judiciously prioritized, while the Secretariat should provide expeditiously all additional information requested by Committee members.

17. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to approve the proposed programme of work agreed by the Bureau, on the understanding that adjustments would be made, where necessary, during the course of the session.

18. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 129: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*) (A/64/5 (Vol. II), A/64/702 and A/64/708)

19. **Mr. Vanker** (Chairman of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors), introducing the report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/5 (Vol. II)), said that the Board highly valued its interactions with the Fifth Committee, as highlighting areas of interest to Member States and areas of greater risk, and thus guiding audit planning and reporting. The Board's audit report addressed issues and their root causes and served as a tool for improvement when paired with the efforts of the Administration and oversight bodies. The Board was available not only to provide clarification in respect of matters raised in its report but also to consider new requests or extensions of scope for its future work.

20. The Board had noted some improvements in the physical counting of non-expendable property in peacekeeping missions in 2008/09; however, there were still significant discrepancies in various missions during physical verifications by the Administration. In addition, assets valued at $121 million were pending write-off and/or disposal, about half of which had been pending for more than six months. The Board had also noted the continued absence of disclosure of expendable property in the financial statements, as well as discrepancies in physical counts. Therefore, as for the previous year, the Board had issued a modified audit opinion with two emphasis of matter paragraphs covering those two areas. The Administration must give priority to addressing the deficiencies with respect to expendable and non-expendable property, especially to ensure accountability for the assets under its control and to prepare for the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

21. The report addressed areas of focus identified by the Board on the basis of its risk assessment as well as special requests by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Having reviewed the status of the recommendations made in its previous report, the Board had found that 40 per cent of those had been fully implemented, an increase of 8 per cent compared to the previous year. Of the recommendations that were unimplemented or had been partially implemented, 16 per cent were two or

more years old. Two outstanding recommendations had first been raised in 2003/04. Several recommendations were reiterated from the previous year, mainly with respect to human resources management, management of expendable and non-expendable property, and procurement and contract management.

22. The percentage of assessed contributions receivable outstanding for more than two years remained as high as 39 per cent. The Board continued to express concern about the high incidence of cancellation of unliquidated obligations.

23. Peacekeeping operations would depend on the United Nations Secretariat to provide accounting and related services for the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. The implementation deadline for the Secretariat had been pushed back to 2014. In the Board's view, the timely implementation of the Standards was a critical aspect of management reform. The milestones leading to their implementation must therefore be carefully monitored.

24. The Board had noted deficiencies in a number of areas of procurement and contract management. It had also made observations concerning human resources management, air operations, information and communications technology, and internal audit, in respect of all of which there was room for improvement.

25. **Ms. Tolani** (Director, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2009 (A/64/702), said that the report showed the status of implementation of the Board's recommendations, the office responsible, the estimated completion date and the priority accorded each recommendation, the main recommendations having been designated high priority. Implementation of these recommendations made a positive contribution to efficiency and effectiveness.

26. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations on the Board of Auditors' report (A/64/708), commended the Board of Auditors on the quality and comprehensiveness of its report, which facilitated the examination of peacekeeping performance reports and budgets.

27. The Advisory Committee continued to be concerned at the recurrence of problems previously identified by the Board and the persistent failure to implement the Board's recommendations, which reflected weaknesses not only in the Secretariat's compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules but also in administration at all levels of management. Given the financial and other risks to which the United Nations was exposed, the Secretary-General should ensure the implementation of the Board's recommendations and strengthen measures to address the underlying causes and thereby improve accountability and management.

28. Continued deficiencies in the asset management of various peacekeeping missions were also a concern. The issuance of a modified audit opinion by the Board of Auditors for three consecutive financial periods raised doubts as to the efficient use of resources and the safeguarding of the Organization's assets.

29. While the Advisory Committee had not issued a separate report on the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors (A/64/702), detailed information should have been provided on specific actions taken to ensure the implementation of the Board's recommendations; the criteria used in assigning different levels of priority to those recommendations; accountability measures taken in respect of programme managers responsible for the persistent non-compliance with the Board's recommendations; and the rationale for assigning responsibility for the implementation of those recommendations to various departments of the Secretariat. The Advisory Committee would review the Secretary-General's response to the weaknesses identified when he submitted his next report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on peacekeeping operations.

30. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that despite the improvement in the rate of implementation of recommendations made by the Board of Auditors over the previous five years, the Secretariat should identify the root causes of recurrent issues and minimize the ageing of recommendations. It was also important for recommendations not to be implemented piecemeal.

31. An enhanced performance audit of peacekeeping operations was required in order to evaluate their management and ascertain the causes of the anomalies

discovered by the Board. The Secretary-General should hold managers accountable by setting the time frame and priorities for implementing recommendations and including them in managers' compacts. In that regard he noted that the Board had not addressed disciplinary measures.

32. Observing that, as at 30 June 2009, assessed contributions receivable had amounted to $1.51 billion, a 4 per cent decrease compared with 2007/08, he called on all Member States to make greater efforts to pay their assessments in full, on time and without conditions.

33. The Group wished to know why the Administration's study of the support account for peacekeeping operations had been limited to a historical trend analysis.

34. The fact that most of the Board's 30 main recommendations for the period 2008/09 were largely reiterations of previous recommendations demonstrated a consistent failure to ensure compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules. The Administration must seek appropriate solutions. The Secretariat must also strengthen the asset control environment in peacekeeping to ensure the efficient use of resources and safeguard the Organization's assets.

35. The United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi should establish a monitoring mechanism to prevent the deterioration or obsolescence of inventory. He had been shocked to learn that, owing to a failure to adhere to the first-in, first-out principle, five first aid paramedic kits and 10 first aid trauma kits sent to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) from the strategic deployment stocks had exceeded their life expectancy.

36. Noting that procurement from developing countries and countries with economies in transition had declined from 60 per cent to 53.6 per cent of total procurement from 2007 to 2008, he called on the Secretariat to make greater efforts to promote such procurement and to increase opportunities for vendors from those countries, in compliance with several General Assembly resolutions.

37. In reaching their conclusions regarding the underutilization of the resources appropriated for quick-impact projects, the Board of Auditors and Advisory Committee had failed to take into account such factors as cumbersome financial procedures and internal control measures, which hampered the implementation of those projects within the required time frames and resulted in lost opportunities.

38. **Ms. González Betancort** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Iceland, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that it was regrettable that deficiencies in the management of expendable and non-expendable property in peacekeeping missions had not been addressed. Asset management must be strengthened and adequate safeguards put in place to prevent waste and financial loss. The Secretariat must also address the recurrence of problems previously identified by the Board of Auditors.

39. The European Union was concerned that assessed contributions outstanding for more than two years represented 39 per cent of the total assessed contributions receivable. Member States must pay their contributions in full, on time and without conditions to allow peacekeeping operations to carry out their mandates.

40. Although the vacancy rate of resident auditors at field missions had improved somewhat, the continued shortage of resident auditors tended to weaken internal controls. Effective internal audit coverage of all missions was required.

41. **Mr. Ballantyne** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that the three delegations were concerned that the Fifth Committee was once again considering a modified audit opinion with emphases of matter. The discrepancies between the physical count of expendable and non-expendable property and the information recorded, repeated for the third year, was a matter of concern. He called on the Secretary-General to hold accountable those to whom authority to remedy the situation had been delegated.

42. Results-based budgeting, in the application of which the Board of Auditors had observed certain deficiencies, added value by allowing a comparison of actual performance with planned results. Missions should ensure that indicators were specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound in order to facilitate effective monitoring and reporting.

43. The Board of Auditors could benefit the Organization even further if the scope of its work was broadened to include assessments of performance and effectiveness.

44. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, said that, despite some improvement in the rate of implementation of the Board's recommendations, the recurrence of issues, the persistent non-compliance with recommendations and the lack of accountability of managers both at Headquarters and in the missions were lamentable. The compacts between the Secretary-General and senior managers could be a useful tool in ensuring that action was taken to implement the Board's recommendations.

45. The Board's repeated issuance of modified audit opinions with an emphasis of matter with respect to asset management reflected negatively on the control environment in peacekeeping operations. Management must take measures to remedy deficiencies and manage the Organization's assets effectively.

46. Deficiencies in the monitoring of the strategic deployment stocks at the United Nations Logistics Base were of great concern. A strict monitoring mechanism was required, with full enforcement of the first-in, first-out principle, particularly with regard to medical supplies, to safeguard the health and well-being of peacekeepers.

47. Also of concern were the irregularities in procurement and contract management. Strict compliance with procurement rules and procedures must be ensured at all levels and all of the Board's recommendations on procurement must be implemented. The Secretariat should also increase its efforts to promote the participation of vendors from developing countries in peacekeeping procurement.

48. Lastly, the Administration should fully implement the Board's recommendations to address high vacancy rates in peacekeeping missions, which could adversely affect the delivery of mandates and the functioning of internal controls.

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (A/64/610 and A/64/650)

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (A/64/586 and Corr.1 and A/64/660/Add.1)

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (A/64/660/Add.10 and A/64/728)

49. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the final performance report of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) (A/64/610), said that the report included information on ONUB's assets, outstanding liabilities and fund balance as at 30 June 2009. Total income from the Operation's inception on 21 April 2004 to 30 June 2009 had amounted to $836,920,000, while total expenditures for that same period had amounted to $686,430,000. The fund balance had amounted to $9,618,000 as at 30 June 2009.

50. As at 30 June 2009, the cash assets in the Operation's Special Account had amounted to $65,988,000 and outstanding liabilities to $57,599,000, resulting in a cash balance of $8,389,000. The General Assembly was invited to credit the cash balance to Member States.

51. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/586 and Corr.1), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $37,016,400 for the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $31,005,000, leaving an unencumbered balance of $6,011,400, which represented a utilization rate of 83.8 per cent.

52. The main causes of variance were lower than budgeted costs for cleaning and dismantling the majority of the sites and United Nations facilities; lower than planned number of hours flown by fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters; and lower than budgeted freight and related costs.

53. The General Assembly was invited to return credits to Member States in the amount of $9,353,300, representing the net cash available in the Special Account of the Mission from the balance of credits in the amount of $14,736,400 due to Member States in respect of the 2007/08 financial period; to take note of the amount of $5,383,100, representing the remaining balance of credits due to Member States from the

2007/08 period, and of the amount of $9,361,600, representing credits due to Member States from the 2008/09 financial period; and to defer until its sixty-fifth session a decision on the treatment of the total amount of $14,744,700, comprising the amount of $5,383,100 and the amount of $9,361,600.

54. Turning to the Secretary-General's note on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/64/728), he said that, in the light of the devastating earthquake on 12 January 2010 in Haiti, the Security Council, in its resolution 1908 (2010), had endorsed the increase in the overall force levels of MINUSTAH to support the immediate recovery, reconstruction and stability efforts, and had decided that MINUSTAH would consist of a military component of up to 8,940 troops of all ranks and a police component of up to 3,711 police.

55. Projected revised requirements for the expansion and maintenance of MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 amounted to $732,393,000, representing an increase of $120,641,800 over the appropriation of $611,751,200 approved by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission in its resolution 63/294.

56. The main causes of variance were an increase in the authorized strength of the Mission by 1,890 troops and 1,500 police; additional requirements in support of MINUSTAH staff related to an agreed financial assistance and compensation package applicable to all United Nations personnel serving in Haiti, the payment of allowances to personnel required to take a mandatory rest and recuperation break outside the Mission area, the deployment of non-MINUSTAH staff on temporary duty assignment, the provision of temporary living accommodation, and the cost of memorial services held in honour of fallen colleagues; the replacement and re-establishment of Mission assets and the initial requirements of the reconstruction programme; the establishment of a support office in Santo Domingo; and the expansion of the community violence reduction programme.

57. The General Assembly was invited to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the expansion of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 in the amount of $120,641,800, in addition to the amount of $611,751,200 that had already been appropriated for the same period for the maintenance of the Mission under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 63/294. The Assembly was also invited to assess the amount of $120,641,800 for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, in addition to the amount of $611,751,200 that had already been assessed for the same period for the maintenance of the Mission under the provisions of resolution 63/294.

58. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of ONUB (A/64/650), said that liquidation activities for the Operation had been carried out from 1 January to 30 June 2007. She recalled that information on the final disposition of assets had been provided in the Secretary-General's report on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (A/63/551), and that the General Assembly had taken note of that report in its resolution 63/288.

59. The Advisory Committee recommended that the available cash balance of $8,389,000, as at 30 June 2009, in the Special Account for ONUB should be credited to Member States in a manner to be decided by the General Assembly.

60. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNMEE (A/64/660/Add.1), she said that, in his report (A/64/586 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General recommended that the General Assembly should return credits to Member States in the amount of $9,353,300, representing the net cash available in the Special Account of the Mission from the balance of credits in respect of the 2007/08 financial period; take note of the amount of $5,383,100, representing the remaining balance of credits due to Member States from the 2007/08 period, and of the amount of $9,361,600, representing credits due to Member States from the 2008/09 period; and defer until its sixty-fifth session a decision on the treatment of the total amount of $14,744,700, comprising the balance of credits due from both periods.

61. The Advisory Committee did not object to the Secretary-General's proposed course of action. The Advisory Committee understood that, in recommending that course of action, the Secretary-General had borne in mind General Assembly resolution 63/257 B, in which the Assembly had decided that Member States that had fulfilled their financial obligations to the

Mission would be credited with their respective share of the net cash available in the Special Account for the Mission as at 30 April 2009.

62. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing arrangements for MINUSTAH (A/64/660/Add.10), she said that the Secretary-General was requesting additional commitment authority in the amount of $120,641,800. The additional costs would be incurred primarily in providing support to the additional uniformed personnel authorized by the Security Council in resolution 1908 (2010); support to MINUSTAH staff; replacement and repair of assets and infrastructure; the support office in Santo Domingo; and funding for the community violence reduction programme.

63. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should accept the Secretary-General's proposals, without prejudice to any further recommendations on future requests for posts and other resources for MINUSTAH.

64. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the Secretary-General would submit the budget proposal for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, and that he would request, as an interim measure, an additional commitment authority, with assessment, relating to requirements from 1 July 2010 to the time of approval by the General Assembly of the full budget proposal for 2010/11 period. The Advisory Committee would consider that request in the near future.

65. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, conveyed the Group's condolences to the people and Government of Haiti for the loss of life that had been caused by the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010, and paid tribute to the United Nations staff who had died in that disaster.

66. The Group supported the efforts of MINUSTAH to tackle the consequences of the earthquake and thanked the international community for its swift reaction and provision of humanitarian assistance to Haiti. It also supported the Secretary-General's request for an additional commitment authority in the amount of $120,641,800, which was required in order for the Mission to re-establish full operational capacity.

67. **Ms. Pakarati** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that, although the Group fully supported the important work done by United Nations peacekeeping missions, it appealed to Member States to achieve a better balance between the resources allocated to peacekeeping and those allocated to development activities, which were funded from the regular budget.

68. In addition to the devastation that it had wreaked on Haiti, the earthquake of 12 January 2010 had dealt a severe blow to MINUSTAH, completely destroying the Mission's headquarters and causing irreparable damage to its infrastructure and equipment. The Rio Group had immediately come to the aid of Haiti, the Group's poorest nation, and continued to provide it with assistance. However, in view of the limited national capacities of its members, the Group wished to emphasize that MINUSTAH, continued to have an important role in promoting the recovery, reconstruction and stabilization of Haiti.

69. The Group called for an expansion of the work of MINUSTAH and the United Nations to promote the reconstruction and recovery of Haiti while respecting national sovereignty and priorities. Those efforts should not only focus on security but also on Haiti's development needs, with a view to achieving stable and lasting peace.

70. The Secretary-General was requested to make full use of the $11 million appropriated for the community violence reduction programme and for quick-impact projects. In view of the urgency of the situation in Haiti, the Secretariat should relax the guidelines governing the operation of quick-impact projects and simplify accountability standards in order to facilitate implementation.

71. The Secretary-General should expedite the issuance of the performance report for 2009/10, as well as the budget proposal for 2010/11, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. The report should provide full details of expenditure for the totality of resources related to the maintenance budget originally approved in resolution 63/294 and the revised estimates requested in the Secretary-General's note (A/64/728).

72. The Group appealed to Member States to approve the Secretary-General's request without delay or further formalities.

73. **Mr. Fermín** (Dominican Republic) said that, as the Secretary-General's report indicated, his Government had allowed MINUSTAH to establish a

support office in Santo Domingo following the earthquake that had struck Haiti. That office was being used as a base from which 200 Mission staff provided services that did not require a physical presence in Haiti.

74. In order to formalize the Mission's presence in the Dominican Republic, it was necessary to conclude a memorandum of understanding that was consistent with the Charter and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations. His Government was cooperating with the Organization in that regard.

75. He called on Member States to provide MINUSTAH with the financial resources it needed to fulfil its expanded mandate.

76. **Mr. Patriota** (Brazil) said that MINUSTAH had played a vital role in building political stability and creating conditions for socio-economic development in Haiti. In the aftermath of the earthquake, the Mission was now faced with the twofold responsibility of rebuilding itself while at the same time spearheading recovery, stabilization and reconstruction efforts. It was therefore incumbent on the Committee to ensure that MINUSTAH was provided with the financial resources it needed.

77. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to widen the scope of the community violence reduction programme, and fully supported his request for a further $11 million to implement large-scale water management projects and expand existing community-based projects.

78. Stressing the importance of quick-impact projects in creating jobs and delivering basic social services, he urged the Secretariat to simplify the reporting requirements for such projects in order to avoid burdening them with cumbersome financial procedures and internal controls. In that connection, he recalled that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in its most recent report (A/64/19), had stressed the need for expedited and flexible procedures for the implementation of quick-impact projects.

79. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for additional staff for MINUSTAH and expressed its appreciation for the assistance provided to Mission personnel, including local staff, following the earthquake. He praised the Secretary-General for his efforts to attract international attention to Haiti's pressing needs and called on Committee members to demonstrate leadership and continued commitment to Haiti by approving the Secretary-General's proposals forthwith.

80. **Ms. Corti** (Argentina) said that her delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for authorization to enter into commitments for the expansion of MINUSTAH in the amount of $120 million in the 2009/10 financial period. The amount requested was justified in view of the damage to the Mission's equipment and infrastructure and the need to respond to the humanitarian crisis.

81. She also supported the Secretary-General's proposal to expand the scope of the community violence reduction programme in order to mitigate the risk of violent activities and crime in Haiti. On the other hand, her delegation shared the concern of the Advisory Committee regarding the ad hoc nature of the measures that had been put in place to support MINUSTAH staff and would request further information.

Agenda item 146: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2009 (A/64/605 and A/64/659 and Corr.1)

82. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2009 (A/64/605), said that five of the 22 peacekeeping missions covered in the report reflected cash deficits totalling $86,648,000 and that the other 17 reflected cash surpluses totalling $213,843,000 which were available for credit to Member States. The latter amount was net of loans totalling $28,816,000 owed by two closed and two active peacekeeping missions. In the 2008/09 financial period, a total of $164 million in cross-borrowing had been required for eight active missions, while $13.5 million had been required for seven active missions in the 2009/10 financial period.

83. The adjusted net available cash balance for the account of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) as at 30 June 2009 had amounted to $437,900. The Secretary-General proposed that two

thirds of that balance, in the amount of $291,900, should be returned to the Government of Kuwait.

84. The General Assembly was invited to approve the return of $291,900, reflecting two thirds of the adjusted net credits available in the account of UNIKOM, to the Government of Kuwait. It was further invited to approve the retention of the cash balance of $213,551,100 available in 17 closed peacekeeping missions in the light of the experience with the Organization's cash requirements during the 2008/09 and 2009/10 financial periods.

85. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/64/659 and Corr.1), said that, with regard to the Secretary-General's proposal that the General Assembly should approve the retention of the cash balance of $213,551,100 available in 17 closed peacekeeping missions, the Advisory Committee continued to be of the view that it was for the General Assembly to decide on the disposition of such balances.

86. With regard to the amount of $291,000 available in the account of UNIKOM, the Advisory Committee recommended that those funds should be returned to the Government of Kuwait, and that, in future, such funds could be returned without the need for a request.

87. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group fully supported the proposal to return the amount of $291,000 available in the account of UNIKOM to the Government of Kuwait. That amount should be returned without further delay and the Group would soon propose a draft decision in that regard. The question of the return of funds to the Government of Kuwait should be resolved separately from questions concerning other closed peacekeeping missions.

88. **Mr. Gürber** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that the question of what should be done with retained cash surpluses in the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions remained unresolved. Meanwhile, the level of cross-borrowing from the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions to fund active missions had doubled over the previous year.

89. Troop-contributing countries and countries that had fulfilled their financial obligations continued to be adversely affected by the non-payment of some $425 million in assessments for closed missions. The solution was for all Member States to comply with their Charter obligation to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. While there might be legitimate reasons why a country might be temporarily unable to meet that obligation, national legislation could not be used as an excuse for withholding contributions.

90. Recalling that retention of the balances in the accounts of closed missions was contrary to financial regulation 5.3, he said that the two delegations objected to the continued use of such balances as a secondary peacekeeping reserve fund and would request clarification regarding the legality of cross-borrowing from those accounts.

91. The cash flow problems of ongoing missions must be resolved in a transparent and financially sound manner. The two delegations agreed with the Board of Auditors that, in the light of the stringent accounting requirements of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, there was a need to review the appropriateness of accounting practice and disclosure in connection with completed missions (A/64/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 45-47).

92. **Mr. Yamada** (Japan) said that two principles should be kept in mind when discussing the status of closed peacekeeping missions: first, payment of assessed contributions was a Charter obligation; and second, cash balances in the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions should be returned to Member States in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

93. His delegation shared the Advisory Committee's concern at the fact that a lack of liquidity at times had led to the borrowing of funds for active peacekeeping missions from closed missions, and wished to reiterate that the problem of cash deficits in closed missions should be resolved by timely and full payment of assessed contributions.

94. The Secretary-General should provide delegations with the most recent update of the amount of cross-borrowed funds for the period 2009/10 and information on the historical pattern of cross-borrowing. The Committee should carefully examine whether the Secretariat had made effective use of cross-borrowing and whether cross-borrowing would be required in the current and subsequent financial periods.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/64/SR.29

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Summary record of the 29th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Maurer ..... (Switzerland)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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10-34418 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 148: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (A/64/584 and Corr.1, A/64/660/Add.7 and A/64/673 and Corr.1)

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Agenda item 160: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/64/602, A/64/636 and A/64/660/Add. 2)

Agenda item 163: Financing of activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) (*continued*) (A/64/644 and A/64/754)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/584 and Corr.1), said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $475,402,600 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $475,373,300, leaving an unencumbered balance of $29,300, which represented near-full utilization of resources. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for communications, fuel and rotation and repatriation of United Nations police, offset by additional requirements for military personnel, owing to higher than expected costs for commercial air charter services. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 50 of the performance report.

2. The proposed budget of $492,535,700 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/673 and Corr.1) reflected a 0.2 per cent increase relative to the funding of $491,774,100 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2009/10. The main causes of the variance were additional requirements for the rental and operation of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters based on new contract prices; for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme; and for facilities and infrastructure, stemming from residential security costs and the cost of electricity, petrol, oil and lubricants. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 77 of the budget report.

3. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/533), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $54,943,000 for the maintenance of the Force and that expenditure had amounted to $54,728,000, leaving an unencumbered balance of $123,100, which represented a utilization rate of 99.8 per cent. The main cause of the variance was lower actual costs for the rotation of contingents, offset by increased requirements for facilities and infrastructure and international staff. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 31 of the performance report.

4. The proposed budget of $57,040,000 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/629) reflected a 4.8 per cent increase relative to the funding of $54,412,700 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Force for 2009/10. The main causes of the variance were additional salary and related staff costs; greater maintenance costs based on the terms of new contracts, increased costs of water, gas and construction services; and an increase in the cost of flight hours and aviation fuel for two helicopters. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 38 of the budget report.

5. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Organization Mission in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/583), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $1,187,676,400 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $1,163,341,800, leaving an unencumbered balance of $24,334,600, which represented a utilization rate of 98.0 per cent. The main causes of the variance were reduced requirements for air transportation because of the non-deployment of rotary- and fixed-wing aircraft in support of local elections; non-acquisition of unmanned aerial vehicles; procurement delays relating to air-traffic control equipment; and non-implementation or partial implementation of planned airfield services. Those reduced requirements were offset by additional requirements for diesel fuel and rations; for national salaries and related costs; for the acquisition of tents, prefabricated units and firefighting equipment and for the establishment of new camps for additional military personnel. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 46 of the performance report.

6. The proposed budget of $1,440,094,400 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/670) reflected a 6.9 per cent increase relative to the funding of $1,346,584,600 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2009/10. The main causes of the variance were the full deployment of 2,785 additional military contingent personnel authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1843 (2008); additional operating and maintenance fees for the turnkey fuel contract and for the proposed strategic fuel reserve; and additional requirements associated with an increase in international posts and with the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/250 on human resources management. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 165 of the budget report.

7. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/617), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $172,842,000 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $172,814,500, leaving an unencumbered balance of $27,500, which represented near-full utilization of resources. The main causes of the variance were reduced operating costs attributable primarily to lower than forecast consumption of diesel fuel; the use of in-house expertise to build hard-walled accommodation instead of acquiring prefabricated units; delayed deployment of search-and-rescue aircraft; and the reduction in the cost of commercial communications owing to non-implementation of the project for leased lines between the Mission and the United Nations Logistics Base. Those reduced requirements were offset by higher costs deriving from increased mission subsistence allowance, revised salary scales and lower vacancy rates. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 62 of the performance report.

8. The proposed budget of $208,838,400 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/686) reflected a 1.4 per cent increase relative to the funding of $205,939,400 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2009/10. The main causes of the variance were additional human resources costs associated with security, rule-of-law and support components and increased salary costs including post-adjustment and common staff costs in connection with revised salary scales and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/250 on human resources management. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 117 of the budget report.

9. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/604), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $198,012,000 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $168,523,300, leaving an unencumbered balance of $29,488,700, which represented a utilization rate of 85.1 per cent. The main cause of the variance was the reconfiguration and downsizing of the Mission in connection with the deployment of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) on 9 December 2008, and the declaration of independence by Kosovo. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 37 of the performance report.

10. The proposed budget of $48,357,900 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/661) reflected a 3.3 per cent increase relative to the funding of $46,809,000 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2009/10. The main causes of the variance were additional

requirements for national and international staff as a result of lower vacancy rates, an updated salary scale for national staff, and new conditions of service for international staff in connection with revised salary scales and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/250 on human resources management, as well as the replacement of vehicles 10 or more years old. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 56 of the budget report.

11. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/601), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $603,708,000 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $593,468,900, leaving an unencumbered balance of $10,239,100, which represented a utilization rate of 98.3 per cent. The main causes of the variance were a reduction in the strength of the Mission's contingent personnel; increased requirements for military observers and United Nations police officers because of slower-than-projected drawdown and an increase in mission subsistence allowance; higher than expected vacancy rates for national staff; and increased air transportation costs because of an increase in the price of diesel and aviation fuel and the deployment of an additional helicopter. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 52 of the performance report.

12. The proposed budget of $536,049,600 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/647) reflected a 4.4 per cent reduction relative to the funding of $560,978,700 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2009/10. The main cause of the variance was the reduction in the number of contingent personnel deployed in the context of completion of the third phase of the drawdown of the Mission's military component. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 77 of the budget report.

13. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/536 and Corr.1), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $45,726,000 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $45,711,800, leaving an unencumbered balance of $14,200, which represented near-full utilization of resources. The main causes of the variance were reduced facilities and infrastructure costs because of reduced requirements for security walls, the cancellation of the acquisition of hand-held scanners that failed to meet United Nations specifications, and lower unit costs for the acquisition of observation equipment, offset by additional military personnel costs caused by the greater price of rations and charter flights used for troop rotation, and additional requirements for national and international staff as a result of the revision of salary scales. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 26 of the performance report.

14. The proposed budget of $47,921,100 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/630) reflected a 6.4 per cent increase relative to the funding of $45,029,700 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2009/10. The main causes of the variance were additional requirements for the rotation of military contingents; for international staff, primarily because of the new salary scale; and for the replacement of refrigeration, accommodation, office and firefighting equipment due to damage and obsolescence. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 57 of the budget report.

15. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/566), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $876,893,700 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $860,488,100, leaving an unencumbered balance of $16,405,500, which represented an implementation rate of 98.1 per cent. The main causes of the variance were the lower number of United Nations police officers receiving the mission subsistence allowance rate applicable for the first 30 days, because of fewer rotations; the non-acceptance of the bid for the reconstruction of aprons for Mission aircraft in Juba because of its excessive cost; and delays in implementing the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 71 of the performance report.

16. The proposed budget of $977,309,700 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/632) reflected a 2.0 per cent increase relative to the funding of $958,350,200 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2009/10. The

main causes of the variance were additional requirements for military contingents because of greater troop-rotation costs, greater major equipment costs based on the memorandums of understanding signed and an expected rise in the cost of rations; additional requirements for national staff, as a result of the application of a higher average national salary scale; and additional requirements for air transportation due to higher guaranteed and hourly rental and operation contractual costs. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 150 of the budget report.

17. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/64/602), he said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $45,600,800 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $45,060,800, leaving an unencumbered balance of $540,000, which represented an implementation rate of 98.8 per cent. The main causes of the variance were lower requirements for the rental and operation of fixed-wing aircraft because of fewer flying hours and consequently reduced requirements for aviation fuel, and, additionally, reimbursement from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for flights in support of the confidence-building measures programme; reduced requirements for the acquisition of prefabricated facilities and security and safety equipment; and non-acquisition of refrigeration equipment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 41 of the performance report.

18. The proposed budget of $58,230,900 for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/636) reflected an 8.8 per cent increase relative to the funding of $53,527,600 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2009/10. The main causes of the variance were increased costs for the rental and operation of the Mission's helicopter fleet, because of new contract arrangements; additional requirements for international staff associated with a revised salary scale and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/250 on human resources management; and increased provision for mine clearance and mine detection and surveying equipment. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 59 of the budget report.

19. Introducing the proposed budget for the financing of support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/64/644), he said that the amount concerned, $205,221,300, reflected a 3.9 per cent decrease relative to the funding of $213,580,000 appropriated by the General Assembly for support to the Mission for 2009/10. The main causes of the variance were a reduction in the provision for freight and related charges associated with the movement of contingent-owned equipment; reduced requirements for the acquisition of vehicles and information and communication technology equipment; and a reduction due to the fact that positions in the Headquarters planning teams were expected to be funded from the support account for peacekeeping operations. The General Assembly was invited to take the actions set out in paragraph 102 of the budget report.

20. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNOCI (A/64/660/Add.7), said that its recommendations regarding the Operation's proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 would entail an overall reduction of $957,500. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of most of the staffing proposals in the budget report, with the exception of certain additional posts and the conversion of contractors' functions into established posts under the support component. It had taken account of the planned reduction in personnel and the forthcoming Security Council review of the mandate of UNOCI, and the indication by the Secretary-General that any implications of the review for the resource requirements for 2010/11 should be reported to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the performance report for UNOCI were set out in paragraph 37 of its report.

21. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNFICYP (A/64/660/Add.5), she said that its recommendations regarding the Force's proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 would entail an overall reduction of $145,400. As it expected that a long-standing, stable mission like UNFICYP would find personnel requirements reduced by efficiency gains, the Advisory

Committee recommended against the request for general temporary assistance for a civil affairs officer and the establishment of a United Nations Volunteer position.

22. The Advisory Committee reiterated the recommendation originally made in its report on the proposed budget for the Force for 2009/10 (A/63/746/Add.9) that the Secretary-General should review the structure of UNFICYP and the Secretary-General's good offices for Cyprus with a view to avoiding duplication of substantive and support functions. In connection with inter-mission support and cooperation, the Advisory Committee saw merit in the proposal to strengthen and formalize the regional coordination of information and communications technology services in UNFICYP, UNDOF and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), a measure which was expected to result in collective recurrent annual savings of approximately $3.5 million.

23. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the performance report for UNFICYP were set out in paragraph 34 of its report.

24. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of MONUC (A/64/660/Add.8), she said that its recommendations regarding the Mission's proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 would entail an overall reduction of $29,744,200. While the Advisory Committee was aware that the future form and focus of the Mission was under discussion, it had considered the Secretary-General's budgetary proposals in the light of the Mission's current mandate and its recommendations were made without prejudice to any decision of the Security Council regarding that mandate. If such a decision resulted in financial implications, revised budget estimates must be submitted.

25. The Advisory Committee recommended the application of a 4 per cent, rather than the proposed 3 per cent, delayed deployment factor to the budget estimates for military and police personnel. Taking into account the Mission's mandated role to protect civilians and the request of the Security Council that the Mission should plan a progressive handover of its tasks in the western provinces, the Advisory Committee recommended against approval of a number of proposed new civilian posts, taking the view that their functions could be accommodated within existing resources. It also recommended an overall reduction of 4 per cent in the estimated resource requirements for operational costs in view of the past pattern of underexpenditure, especially in the area of air operations.

26. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the performance report for MONUC were set out in paragraph 84 of its report.

27. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNMIT (A/64/660/Add.11), she said that its recommendations regarding the Mission's proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 would entail an overall reduction of $2,026,800. In the light of the importance of building capacity within the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL), it recommended approval of the staffing proposals for the Mission, with the exception of one P-3 post in the Office of the Police Commissioner. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the performance report for UNMIT were set out in paragraph 39 of its report.

28. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNMIK (A/64/660/Add.6), she said that the Advisory Committee was recommending approval of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. However, it recommended that the next budget submission should include an evaluation of the results of the ongoing four-phase plan to reduce support costs and trusted that the lessons learned from the reconfiguration and downsizing of the Mission would be applied to similar exercises in other missions.

29. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the performance report for UNMIK were set out in paragraph 32 of its report.

30. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNMIL (A/64/660/Add.9), she said that its recommendations regarding the Mission's proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 would entail an overall reduction of $6,289,600. In view of the planned withdrawal of some 2,000 military personnel, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction in the requirements for air transportation and official travel. In addition, having learned of the repatriation of 100 members of the Mongolian Guard Force at the Special Court for Sierra Leone subsequent to the preparation of the Mission's

budget proposal, the Advisory Committee recommended a further reduction of $2,926,700.

31. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposal to establish one P-4 post for a Security Reform Adviser, the conversion of three international posts to National Officer posts and the reclassification of three General Service posts to National Officer posts and the abolition of one Field Service post. It noted that the proposed budget had made no provision for election support apart from consultancy services, as the full extent of requirements could not be determined.

32. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the performance report for UNMIL were set out in paragraph 53 of its report.

33. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNDOF (A/64/660/Add.4), she said that the Advisory Committee was recommending approval of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. It had noted the participation of the Force in the regional information and communication technology initiative with UNFICYP, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and UNTSO and had been informed of the consequent reduction in equipment-related costs of some $386,000, offset by additional requirements of $69,600 resulting from the proposed reclassification of the Chief of the Communications and Information Technology Section as Deputy Chief of the Regional Information and Communications Technology Services.

34. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the performance report for UNDOF were set out in paragraph 32 of its report.

35. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNMIS (A/64/660/Add.3), she said that its recommendations regarding the Mission's proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 would entail an overall reduction of $38,964,300. In view of past expenditure patterns, the potential to use the less costly southern supply route and the need to contain aircraft rental costs, the Advisory Committee recommended a $35 million reduction in the requirements for operational costs. The Mission should continue to explore the feasibility of joint air operations with the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), particularly the use of long-term charters for troop rotation. In view of the vacancy rate for international staff, the Advisory Committee recommended the application of a vacancy factor of 28 per cent instead of the proposed 26 per cent.

36. Recalling the Advisory Committee's request that the effectiveness of the revised operational strategy introduced in 2009/10 should be kept under review and that, in view of the significant resources required to support that change in 2010/11, the General Assembly should be informed of the results of the review in the context of the proposed budget for 2010/11, she said that it was regretted that no full assessment in that regard had been provided.

37. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the performance report for UNMIS were set out in paragraph 64 of its report.

38. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of MINURSO (A/64/660/Add.2), she said that its recommendations regarding the Mission's proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 would entail an overall reduction of $130,500. The Advisory Committee recommended against the proposed establishment of the post of Air Terminal Officer and the conversion to an established post of the position of Archiving Assistant. The Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the performance report for MINURSO were set out in paragraph 40 of its report.

39. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of support of AMISOM, which included consideration of the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA) (A/64/754), she said that its recommendations regarding the Mission's proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 would entail an overall reduction of $22,716,530 because of a pattern of underexpenditure largely due to circumstances beyond the Mission's control. The Advisory Committee had addressed the difficulties experienced by the Mission in recruiting and retaining staff in its general report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping operations (A/64/660). Given that the Mission was in the process of reviewing the property control system to ensure compliance with the requirement for complete physical inspection of all United Nations-owned equipment by 30 June 2010, the Advisory Committee was concerned that the requisite arrangements were not already in place.

40. **Ms. Ahlenius** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on programme evaluation of the performance and the achievement of results by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (A/64/712), said that the comprehensive evaluation of UNMIL was the latest in a series of three. In 2009, OIOS had completed a similar evaluation of UNOCI (A/63/713) and had finalized an evaluation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The General Assembly had considered the evaluation of UNOCI at its sixty-third session; OIOS had forwarded its evaluation of MINUSTAH to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for its comments in April 2010. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/272, reports of OIOS which were not submitted to the General Assembly were made available on request to the Member States. The evaluation of UNMIL examined the relevance of the Mission's mandate and the progress made in achieving it, measured the Mission's outputs and efficiency in delivering them, assessed the validity of the Mission's strategies and partnership arrangements, and attempted to identify best practices for the benefit of other peacekeeping operations.

41. Substantial progress towards achieving the Mission's mandate had been observed. The Mission was perceived by the population as essential to supporting peace. Successes had been achieved in disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation efforts and in the holding of elections. However, there had been limited advances in areas requiring domestic strategies and outside funding, including reform of the security sector and judicial and correctional institutions. That lack of progress undermined the sustainability of peace and security and affected other areas of the Mission's mandate, such as the promotion of human rights.

42. Chief among the 12 recommendations made by OIOS were the need to develop an overarching strategy for security sector reform, to support the Liberia National Police, to avoid the creation of a security vacuum as the Mission downsized, and to further integration between the Mission and the United Nations country team in Liberia. Despite the challenges remaining, UNMIL had been innovative in working with the country team in the interests of greater efficiency, effectiveness and impact and of advancing the "One United Nations" approach.

43. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the proposed budget for each mission reflected the resource requirements for the stated period, thus advancing the Security Council's overall objective of maintaining international peace and security. The Group noted that in the 2010/11 budget period each mission would contribute to a specified number of expected accomplishments by delivering related key outputs.

44. Although commendable progress had been made in achieving mission targets during the 2009/10 period, the Group of African States called on the Secretary-General once again to urgently address such issues as high vacancy rates, high staff turnover and procurement-related problems, which all posed challenges to the full implementation of mission mandates. Quick-impact projects played an important role in that regard, and greater efforts should be made to ensure that impediments to the implementation of those projects were eliminated and that all planned projects were carried out once resources were approved.

45. All peacekeeping missions should be provided with adequate resources, yet the Advisory Committee had recommended reductions in operational resources and had applied higher vacancy factors in some cases. The Group was determined to ensure that the Committee supported the provision of all justified resources for each mission.

46. For the 2010/11 period, it was vitally important that missions should be provided with adequate resources to achieve the significant milestones they had identified, in the attainment of their objectives under results-based-budgeting frameworks. The Committee should consider the specific mandates and unique circumstances of each mission, and allocate resources accordingly.

47. **Mr. Windsor** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, reiterated the three delegations' support for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste and the promotion of long-term stability in the country. Australia and New Zealand also continued to provide extensive security assistance in Timor-Leste through the International Stabilisation Force. Despite improvements in the general security situation and in the political process in Timor-Leste, as illustrated by the completion of village elections in October 2009, much work still lay ahead. The underlying

situation remained fragile and a cautious approach was required when planning for the Mission's future, including for any substantial changes in its management.

48. The three delegations encouraged the provision of adequate resources to allow UNMIT to address the key areas of reform of the security sector, strengthening of the rule of law, promotion of democratic governance and dialogue, and economic and social development. As the provision of resources was a key principle of effective integrated peacekeeping, they supported the Secretary-General's proposal for additional civilian staff with expert skills to enhance the professionalism of the National Police of Timor-Leste and the security sector as a whole.

49. The three delegations welcomed the Mission's efforts to offset cost increases by making efficiency gains through, for example, preventive maintenance, the use of videoconferencing and in-house expertise. It was commendable that UNMIT had achieved a 15 per cent decrease in operational requirements compared with the previous year's appropriations while still fulfilling its mandate. He joined the Advisory Committee's call for those results to be emulated by other missions.

50. Efforts were also being made to fill staff vacancies expeditiously and reduce staff turnover despite significant obstacles, such as remoteness, previously lower allowance and lengthy recruitment processes. The issue of lengthy recruitment processes, in particular, which was endemic in the United Nations system as a whole, should be addressed urgently.

51. **Mr. Milanović** (Serbia) said that the continued presence of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo in the province of Kosovo and Metohija remained crucial for security, stability and respect for human rights, as mandated by Security Council resolution 1244 (1999); adequate staffing and funding were therefore required. Despite its reconfiguration and the unprecedented reduction in its staffing and budgetary resources, UNMIK had managed to perform its essential role in the unfavourable environment created by the illegal unilateral declaration of independence by the local authorities in Kosovo. It was essential for the Mission to be provided with all necessary means to discharge its mandate under the status-neutral framework.

52. It was in that context that his delegation viewed the maintenance of current staffing levels and the modest increase in the proposed budgetary resources. It welcomed the proposal to convert three general temporary assistance positions within the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, created to facilitate and enhance cooperation and coordination with the European Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, to permanent posts. It was pleasing that one of the posts had already been filled and he hoped that the remaining two posts would be filled expeditiously. Those posts would all contribute to the successful maintenance of the role of UNMIK in such important areas as policing, customs and the judiciary by facilitating policy liaison and technical cooperation with EULEX.

53. His delegation acknowledged the role of the Office for Community Support and Facilitation, the field presence in Mitrovica and Pec municipalities, and the establishment of a post of Senior Human Rights Officer at the P-5 level which would enhance the Office's capacity to handle human rights-related issues at an appropriate level. UNMIK should continue to play an important role in facilitating the participation of representatives of the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in regional cooperation initiatives.

54. His delegation fully supported the external representation function of UNMIK, in keeping with its policy of full support for regional cooperation on issues of common interest. The ability of UNMIK to facilitate reconstruction activities and security arrangements in areas of cultural and religious heritage, particularly the eight Serbian Orthodox patrimonial sites, must in no way be diminished. Monitoring by UNMIK and EULEX would be of particular importance following the planned replacement of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) static guard units at those sites by Kosovo police guards. The maintenance of the administrative capacity of UNMIK to process requests for certification and authentication of documents remained of vital importance to the local population.

55. UNMIK should focus more on combating organized crime, especially narcotics trafficking, and all United Nations agencies and EULEX should cooperate to that end. The rule of law as the basis for the sustainable existence of all communities in Kosovo was of the utmost importance and must be evidenced, above all, by an increased rate of return of internally displaced persons. His delegation supported the

proposals made by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the Advisory Committee, in the hope that the proposed budgetary resources would enable UNMIK to fulfil its mandate.

56. **Mr. Diab** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force had been established over 30 years earlier pursuant to Security Council resolution 350 (1974) and in response to the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan. Despite repeated calls for a total withdrawal to the 1967 borders, the occupation was still ongoing, and his delegation therefore maintained that, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the funding of UNDOF should be borne by the occupying Power. His delegation welcomed the appointment of the new Commander of the Force and the arrival of a contingent from the Philippines. It acknowledged the work being done by UNDOF and the Force's cooperation with the Syrian authorities and commended the troop-contributing countries.

57. **Mr. Bailly** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on agenda item 148, welcomed the political will shown by the signatories to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement to ensure that presidential elections were held in Côte d'Ivoire. Despite the technical difficulties associated with the preparation of the voters list which had prevented the presidential elections from being held as planned in November 2009, all parties had agreed to hold those elections in 2010. Although the issue of fraud concerning the voters list had given rise to electoral disputes, the different parties had reached agreement on the setting up of the new Independent Electoral Commission and the formation of a new Government. The parties had worked hard to establish a consensual modus operandi regarding the disputed list; to complete the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; and to dismantle the former armed groups, while continuing to work towards reunifying the country.

58. With regard to the elections, efforts to resolve the dispute over the voters list would resume in May 2010. In that connection, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1911 (2010), a United Nations technical assessment mission had visited Côte d'Ivoire and would soon submit its report to the Security Council. Consequently, the Government wished all future negotiations on the financing of the 2010/11 budget of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire to focus on the resources needed for completion of the final components of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement as well as on the mandates of UNOCI laid down by the Security Council. In that regard, his delegation would welcome clarification of the measures taken by UNOCI to assist the Facilitator and his Special Representative in Abidjan in the conduct of the facilitation with the different parties, to settle any misunderstandings between them, and to resolve potential disputes amicably.

59. **Mr. Brant** (Brazil), speaking on agenda item 152, said that the Government of Timor-Leste should be congratulated for the positive developments recorded in the country in the economic, social and political arenas, including the successful holding of elections, closing of all camps for internally displaced persons, and improved livelihood and employment prospects. The National Police of Timor-Leste should also be commended for the improved security situation in the country. Nonetheless, many challenges remained, and long-term success depended on renewed efforts by the international community to support the Government of Timor-Leste and its people in consolidating those gains.

60. The United Nations presence remained indispensable in ensuring a smooth transition to recovery and development. His delegation therefore supported the cautious approach taken by the Secretary-General for a gradual drawdown of UNMIT forces based on progress in the establishment of a national police force measured against objective criteria and the situation on the ground. His delegation also supported the staffing proposals contained in the budget for 2010/11, which were aimed at strengthening the security sector and rule of law and the support component. In particular, there was a need to strengthen the professional and technical expertise of the Office of the Police Commissioner by establishing posts to support the national police force. Lastly, considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 63/292, adopted by consensus, had disregarded the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the management structure of UNMIT, His delegation urged the Advisory Committee, in its future reports, to refrain from repeating recommendations that had been disregarded by the General Assembly. It would continue to scrutinize very carefully the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, to ensure that the Mission had the necessary resources to discharge its mandate.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/64/SR.30

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later: Mr. Sene (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Senegal)
Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kelapile

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 134: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Kane** (Under-Secretary-General for Management), accompanying her statement with a computerized slide presentation, said that she would focus on four main financial indicators: assessments issued, unpaid assessed contributions, available cash resources and debt to Member States. The overall picture was mixed, although there had been improvement in some areas.

2. Turning first to the regular budget, she noted that levels of assessments and payments had both been higher in 2009 than in 2008, by $619 million and $690 million, respectively. Unpaid assessed contributions had decreased to $335 million as at 31 December 2009, compared to $417 million a year earlier. By the end of 2009, 136 Member States — or 10 fewer than in 2008 — had paid their regular budget assessments in full. She urged the remaining Member States to pay their assessed contributions for 2009 in full as soon as possible. Of the total of $335 million outstanding as at 31 December 2009, 88 per cent had been owed by a single Member State, 6 per cent by two other Member States and 6 per cent by the remaining 53 Member States. By 30 April 2010, 74 Member States — or 2 fewer than by 30 April 2009 — had paid their regular budget assessments in full, although 2 additional States had paid in full since then.

3. The financial position of the regular budget as at 30 April 2010 as compared to 30 April 2009 reflected the net result of both lower assessments and lower payments received. Unpaid assessed contributions had been $395 million lower on 30 April 2010 than a year earlier, while payments received by 30 April 2010 had been only $20 million lower than on 30 April 2009. There had also been a decrease of $333 million in the regular budget assessment for 2010. Over 94 per cent of the $1 billion outstanding on 30 April 2010 was accounted for by nine countries. The final outcome for 2010 would depend on the action taken by those Member States.

4. Cash resources for the regular budget comprised the General Fund, into which assessed contributions were paid, the Working Capital Fund, authorized periodically by the General Assembly, and the Special Account. As at 30 April 2010, the total cash resources available had stood at $1,543 million, compared to $918 million on 31 December 2009, which reflected a net increase in payments over expenditures in the first quarter of the year. The modest increase in the Special Account resulted from accumulated interest. The final cash position would largely depend on the action taken by the nine countries that had not yet paid their regular budget assessments.

5. Financial outcomes for peacekeeping activities were hard to forecast because of unpredictable demand. That, together with the fact that the financial period for peacekeeping ran from 1 July to 30 June rather than from 1 January to 31 December, the issuance of separate assessments for each operation and the issuance of assessments for different periods throughout the year, depending on the mandate period approved by the Security Council for each mission, complicated a comparison between the financial situation of peacekeeping operations and that of the regular budget and the international tribunals.

6. The total amount outstanding for peacekeeping operations at the end of 2009 had been just under $1.9 billion, which was $1 billion less than the amount of $2.8 billion outstanding at the end of 2008. Of the amount outstanding at the end of 2009, approximately two thirds had been owed by two Member States.

7. The unpredictable amount and timing of peacekeeping assessments made it more difficult for Member States to keep fully current with their payments. The 38 Member States that had paid all their peacekeeping assessments as at 31 December 2009 therefore deserved special thanks.

8. Although the cash available for peacekeeping at the end of 2009 had been over $2.3 billion, that amount had been divided among the separate accounts maintained for each operation and there were restrictions on its use. The General Assembly had specified that no peacekeeping mission should be financed by borrowing from other active missions, and the terms of reference of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund restricted its use to new operations and the expansion of existing operations. At the end of 2009, cash balances for peacekeeping had totalled $1,728 million in the accounts of active missions, $457 million in those of closed missions and $142 million in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund.

9. The financial position of peacekeeping operations as at 30 April 2010 showed improvement over the

situation at the end of 2009. Against new assessments of over $3.3 billion by that date, contributions of over $3.9 billion had been received, reducing the amount outstanding from over $1.8 billion to under $1.3 billion. Some 72 per cent of the amount outstanding for peacekeeping operations as at 30 April 2010 had been owed by six Member States. She expressed special thanks to the 24 Member States that had been fully current with their peacekeeping assessments due and payable as at 30 April 2010. Two more States had paid their peacekeeping assessments in full since that date.

10. It was estimated, on the basis of projected receipts and disbursements and of the proposed retention of cash balances in closed peacekeeping operations, that total cash available in peacekeeping accounts at the end of 2010 would amount to about $2.9 billion, with $2.4 billion in the accounts of active missions, $412 million in the accounts of closed missions and $141 million in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund.

11. Of the $412 million expected to be available in the accounts of closed missions at the end of 2010, $218 million had been set aside for payment of outstanding liabilities, such as troop and equipment reimbursements, leaving only $194 million freely available for possible cross-borrowing for other accounts, including the regular budget, the international tribunals and active peacekeeping operations. Cross-borrowing from the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations had been required in 2009 for four active operations, namely the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). The need for cross-borrowing would of course be obviated if assessments were paid in full and on time.

12. As at 31 December 2009, the amount owed to Member States for troops/formed police units and contingent-owned equipment had been $775 million, compared to $429 million at the beginning of the year. An increase in new obligations was projected, mainly in the light of increased military and police deployment in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The increases would be partially offset by reductions in the deployed military strength of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

13. It was projected that by the end of 2010 the debt to Member States would decrease to $525 million, taking into account projected new obligations of $2.1 billion and projected payments of just under $2.4 billion. As at 30 April 2010, the amount owed had been $750 million, of which about 60 per cent had been owed to 10 Member States. Payments for troops and formed police units were current as of February 2010 for all active missions except MINURSO, because of insufficient cash in the special account for that mission. Payments for contingent-owned equipment were current as of December 2009 for all active missions except MINURSO and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) due to insufficient cash levels.

14. Projected payments for 2010 also depended on the timely finalization of memorandums of understanding: at the end of April 2010, 85 out of 380 memorandums of understanding for peacekeeping operations had yet to be finalized. The actual level of payments would naturally depend on Member States' meeting their financial obligations to the United Nations.

15. The financial position of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had worsened in 2009, with outstanding assessments for both Tribunals increasing from $26 million at the end of 2008 to $37 million at the end of 2009. However, a payment of $15.5 million had been received after the end of 2009 and before assessments for the Tribunals had been issued for 2010. As more than 81 per cent of the outstanding amount was owed by two Member States, a great deal would depend on their future actions. By the end of 2009, 105 Member States had paid their assessed contributions for both Tribunals in full, matching the level at the end of 2008, and she urged the remaining Member States to follow their example. The situation had improved in 2010, as 12 more Member States had paid their assessed contributions to both Tribunals in full by 30 April 2010 than by the same date a year earlier. Unpaid assessments as at 30 April 2010 had amounted to $86 million, which was lower than the $158 million outstanding as at 30 April 2009. On the basis of current projections, the Tribunals should end 2010 with positive cash balances. Once

again, however, the final outcome would depend on Member States' continuing to honour their financial obligations to the Tribunals.

16. Since the approval of the $1.9-billion capital master plan budget in December 2006, 12 Member States had chosen to make a one-time payment, while 180 Member States had opted for the multi-year payment plan. As at 30 April 2010, 186 Member States had made payments totalling $1.4 billion, with $117 million still outstanding. A number of Member States that had not opted for one-time payment had nevertheless made advance payments totalling $59 million.

17. The General Assembly had also approved the establishment of a working capital reserve of $45 million, to be funded by advances from Member States and apportioned at the rates of assessment for 2007. As at 30 April 2010, 174 Member States had made payments for the working capital reserve, which had totalled $44.9 million. As at that date, 88 Member States had fully paid their capital master plan assessments, 98 Member States had made partial payments and 6 had not yet made any payments.

18. In conclusion, she paid a special tribute to the Member States that had paid in full all assessments due and payable as at 30 April 2010 for the regular budget, peacekeeping operations, the international tribunals and the capital master plan. Since that date, two more States had paid all their assessments in full. There had been signs of progress in the Organization's financial position between 2008 and 2009, and total outstanding contributions as at 30 April 2010 were $1 billion lower than they had been on 30 April 2009. However, a few countries continued to account for most of the amounts still outstanding.

19. With regard to the level of debt to Member States, she was pleased to report that, in the first four months of 2010, $800 million had been disbursed to Member States. While that situation was heartening, cash shortages continued to affect a number of peacekeeping missions. Cross-borrowing from the accounts of closed missions had been required in 2009 for MINURSO, UNOCI, UNOMIG and UNMIT.

20. The Organization's financial health depended, as always, on Member States' meeting their financial obligations in full and on time. In order to help them to do so, the Secretariat had launched an online status-of-contributions portal (https://soc.un.org). The General Assembly, in December 1975, had decided that the Secretary-General should provide Member States, on a biannual basis, with information on the amounts assessed, paid and owed to the regular budget and on continuing operations for which there was a special assessment. Such reports had been issued semi-annually between 1976 and 1986, quarterly in 1987 and 1988, and monthly from 1989 onward.

21. With the increase in the number of funds covered by assessed contributions and in the Organization's membership, the standard report had grown from under 20 pages per quarter in 1976 to more than 200 pages per month currently. The online portal was intended to reduce costs and to ensure that Member States received more timely, comprehensive and useful information. The information would be updated on a daily basis and would be available at various levels of aggregation; it could be viewed as a whole or broken down by fund or by Member State. The portal would enable each Member State to obtain detailed information on its own assessments, payments, credits and overpayments. Such information was accessible only to the Member State concerned.

22. **The Chairman** said that the statement by the Under-Secretary-General would be issued as an addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on improving the financial situation of the United Nations (A/64/497/Add.1).

Agenda item 146: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)
(A/64/326 (Part II), A/64/633, A/64/643, A/64/660 and A/64/669; A/C.5/64/17)

23. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/64/643), said that it provided consolidated information on budget performance for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and on the proposed level of resources for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, including examples of efficiency gains and management initiatives in field missions. It also provided updated information on budget formulation and presentation, logistical support, training and conduct and discipline (chap. III), the status of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund (chap. V), liabilities to troop-contributing and formed police-

contributing countries (chap. VI) and death and disability compensation (chap. VII).

24. The total approved budget for the 2008/09 period had amounted to $7.3 billion, including sums for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi and the support account for peacekeeping operations. The related expenditure had amounted to $7.1 billion, resulting in an overall unencumbered balance of $0.2 billion and an overall budget implementation rate of 97.2 per cent, compared to 92.7 per cent for the prior financial period (2007/08). Budget implementation rates had improved for 10 operations (the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), MINUSTAH, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), UNAMID, UNIFIL, UNMIL, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), UNMIT, UNOCI and UNOMIG), while they had decreased for 3 missions (the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and UNMIK) and for the Logistics Base and the support account. The main factors affecting budget performance in the 2008/09 period were summarized, by mission, in chapter II of the report.

25. The total peacekeeping budget level for the 2010/11 period, inclusive of the Logistics Base and the support account, was $8.4 billion, compared with the total approved budget of $7.9 billion for the 2009/10 period, representing an increase of $0.5 billion, or 6.4 per cent, primarily attributable to increased deployments in UNAMID and MONUC. The report reflected preliminary 2010/11 estimates for MINURCAT, MINUSTAH, the Logistics Base and the support account. Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti on 12 January 2010, the proposed budget for MINUSTAH had been put on hold and an anticipated order of magnitude had been provided in the report pending the determination of revised requirements for the Mission. Resource estimates for the Logistics Base and the support account reflected the initial level of proposals, pending review.

26. The note by the Secretary-General on proposed budgetary levels for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/C.5/64/17) covered the Logistics Base and all peacekeeping operations except MINURCAT and MINUSTAH; it also included the support account, which reflected enterprise resource planning requirements, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/243, in the amount of $57 million for the 2010/11 period. The proposed commitment authority levels for MINURCAT and MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010 would be submitted to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-fourth session, and the budget estimates for 2010/11 would be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

27. The format of the budget presentations for 2010/11 had been refined so as to facilitate their review by legislative committees. A pilot project aimed at improving the presentation of the results-based budgeting frameworks for the support component of field missions had been introduced for MONUC, UNIFIL and UNMIL, with a view to its possible extension to all missions in future budget reports. In addition, the introductory section of each results-based budgeting component included a brief outline summarizing the staffing changes for the component, the context and challenges of the mission and significant structural changes.

28. A standardized terminology for proposed changes in human resources (annex II) had been adopted for use in all budget reports. A number of steps had been taken to improve cost estimates, including a thorough review of vacancy factors for all personnel categories, the use of World Bank exchange rate forecasts in estimating national staff salary costs and the use of mission-specific average actual fuel prices in estimating fuel requirements.

29. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/250, new contractual arrangements for international civilian staff in all peacekeeping missions had come into effect as from 1 July 2009. Estimated international staff costs for 2010/11 had been based on the January 2010 base salary scales (ST/IC/2010/4) and mission-specific post adjustment multipliers. For the calculation of common staff costs for 2010/11, the 2009/10 ratio had been applied to the salaries (including post adjustment) calculated for each mission.

30. Efficiency gains expected from improvements to logistical, administrative and security support for missions were estimated at some $23.7 million and had been identified for all missions in the 2010/11 budget proposals. The overview report included examples of the efficiency gains included in the 2010/11 budget reports (table 5), examples of initiatives to be

implemented in 2010/11 (table 6), proposed 2010/11 requirements by mission (table 7) and information on the main factors behind variances in resource requirements (table 8). The action to be taken by the General Assembly was set out in chapter VIII of the report.

31. **Ms. Malcorra** (Under-Secretary-General for Field Support), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the global field support strategy (A/64/633), recalled that informal consultations on the subject with the Member States had been in progress for more than a year. The strategy was intended to speed up service delivery in order to support missions' implementation of Security Council mandates, to improve the quality of those services and to make more cost-effective use of resources.

32. The strategy consisted of an integrated set of mutually dependent and mutually reinforcing components designed to reconcile often contradictory demands, such as the demand for higher quality at lower cost. Four key considerations had influenced the strategy: the need to improve the safety and security of personnel, the need to strengthen accountability for and stewardship of the resources provided by Member States, the lessons learned from recent experiences of collaboration with regional organizations as peacekeeping partners and the need to consider missions' impact on the environment and on local societies so as to foster better utilization of local resources.

33. The strategy had four core components: the establishment of deployment modules to improve the speed, quality and predictability with which the military, police and civilian components of field missions were deployed; the creation of global and regional service centres; the modification of mission financing arrangements to expedite the timely deployment of material and human resources; and the implementation of a human resources management framework to plan for, attract and retain qualified staff.

34. Improving the quality of services involved enhancing support processes and improving the skills of support staff. Those goals would be pursued through the establishment of service centres, located at family duty stations in order to attract and retain more qualified staff in safer environments. The proposal to establish a global service centre was fundamental to efforts to accelerate mission deployment and redeployment through a modular support approach. The regional service centre would reduce mission footprints by consolidating staff performing repetitive activities, such as processing staff entitlements or recording transactions, that did not have an immediate impact on mission operations and did not need to be carried out in situ. There were more than 1,500 international posts dedicated to such tasks across all missions. The global service centre would do the same for support functions with a global reach. No organizational structures were being changed, no lines of authority were being modified, and the chain of command remained unaffected. No activity currently performed at Headquarters and requiring interaction with Member States would be altered. Moreover, the strategy would be aligned with the enterprise resource planning system (Umoja).

35. Since the various elements of the strategy could not be implemented successfully unless the appropriate level of funding was available at the right time, the financial framework was one of the strategy's four core components. It aimed to achieve faster budget preparation through the use of budget templates, for which a standard costing methodology reviewed and approved by the Member States would be developed. It would also maximize opportunities to set up or expand missions by enhancing the use of the existing Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and a modified replenishment mechanism for the strategic deployment stocks.

36. The strategy represented a new, global model for the delivery of support services to more than 30 field missions around the world. The many elements still to be designed, such as predefined modules and service packages for military and police deployment, would benefit from direct input from the Member States, which would receive regular reports on implementation, including resource implications and outcomes. The Department of Field Support had paid special attention to the development of a methodology for overseeing every aspect of implementation and incorporating the recommendations of oversight bodies.

37. **Ms. Pollard** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management), introducing the Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/64/669), said that it presented data collected by the Office of Human Resources Management on

allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse within the United Nations system for the period from January to December 2009.

38. The total number of allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse reported in 2009 was 154, compared with 111 allegations reported in 2008. The number of allegations relating to peacekeeping personnel for the same period had increased from 83 in 2008 to 112 in 2009. Those increases were due in part to improvements in reporting mechanisms, investigative procedures and community outreach.

39. Despite the increase in allegations in 2009, strong preventive measures in field missions, such as increased training and awareness-raising, had contained the occurrence of such incidents. The issue would continue to demand sustained and comprehensive attention, addressing prevention, prompt investigation, enforcement of disciplinary action and assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

40. The report also described the work of the Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the Department of Field Support Conduct and Discipline Unit and Teams during the reporting period. Finally, in the report, the Secretary-General emphasized his continued commitment to preventing the perpetration of acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel. In that regard, the Secretary-General welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/110 on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission as an additional and powerful tool to prevent the perpetration of such acts.

41. **Mr. Kelapile** (Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, including the proposed global field support strategy (A/64/660), said that the Advisory Committee welcomed the more timely submission of reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of peacekeeping missions as a result of cooperation between departments.

42. For a variety of reasons, the General Assembly had not adopted a resolution on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations for the previous two years. As a result, some of the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its last two reports on such issues (A/62/781 and A/63/746) had not been addressed. Accordingly, the current report should be read in conjunction with those reports.

43. In the Advisory Committee's view, one of the factors hindering a holistic understanding of all the elements of peacekeeping budgets was the Secretariat's failure, in most cases, to present a picture of progress in the many multi-year projects and management initiatives relating to or affecting peacekeeping, such as the new system of administration of justice, the talent management system and other human resources and management initiatives. The next overview report should provide a progress report on multi-year projects, initiatives and reforms relating to peacekeeping, including time frames for completion, financial implications, expenditures and efficiency gains expected.

44. A number of peacekeeping operations were at some stage of drawdown or transition to peacebuilding. Accordingly, many of the resource proposals for 2010/11 reflected a focus on strengthening the rule of law and supporting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, mine action and security sector reform. The re-profiling of resources as a result of that transition should be analysed and lessons learned should be documented.

45. The Advisory Committee welcomed efforts to refine the presentation of peacekeeping budgets. However, planning assumptions should be further developed so as to present overall resource requirements and programmatic elements more clearly and describe not only planned initiatives but also their linkage to current operational requirements. In general, the presentation in the proposed budgets was too heavily oriented towards information on objects of expenditure rather than a clear description of the activities envisaged and the resources required to undertake them.

46. A number of what could be considered backstopping functions had been transferred, or were proposed for transfer, from Headquarters to the Logistics Base and had consequently been moved, or were due to be moved, from the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations to the budget of the Logistics Base. The Advisory Committee was concerned that the current manner of presenting those requirements could make it difficult for the General Assembly to get an overview of the totality of

resources dedicated to a particular function or business process. Accordingly, the Secretary-General should consider presenting a consolidated resource request for those support functions performed outside the missions.

47. With regard to military and police personnel issues, the Advisory Committee noted the proposals on ways to reduce the cost of troop rotation, including the use of a jetliner on long-term charter for that purpose in Central and East Africa and the use of commercial flights rather than charter flights. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue seeking ways to facilitate troop rotation and to reduce costs while maintaining a high level of service to troop- and police-contributing countries.

48. With regard to civilian personnel issues, the Advisory Committee continued to be concerned at the persistent high vacancy and turnover rates experienced by the missions, which could put the implementation of mandates at risk. Furthermore, vacancies at senior levels could have repercussions in areas such as the proper delegation of authority and oversight. Measures should be taken to support a minimum period of assignment, and the practice of allowing staff who had recently arrived at a mission to be recruited by other missions should be curtailed.

49. The Advisory Committee expected that the establishment of occupational rosters would begin to show results in terms of a significant lowering of vacancy rates. It recommended that the Secretary-General should undertake an initial assessment of the impact of the rosters and other reforms on staff recruitment and retention. That assessment should be provided to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-fifth session, and should contain an interim analysis of the financial implications of the reforms. As the Advisory Committee continued to believe that the designation of duty stations as family or non-family should be based on the security situation on the ground, as well as other pertinent objective factors, it recommended that the Secretary-General should submit proposals in that regard to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

50. With regard to operational requirements, the Advisory Committee noted that a number of measures were being proposed in response to the sharp increase in aircraft rental costs as a result of higher market prices. The Advisory Committee reiterated its request for a comprehensive report on air operations, taking into account the elements set out in paragraphs 45 to 50 of its previous report on cross-cutting issues (A/63/746) and including an analysis of the experience gained with the proposed regional approach to the management of air assets.

51. The Advisory Committee expected that an assessment would be made of the efficiency and effectiveness of the turnkey arrangements for the supply of rations and fuel to a number of missions. Those arrangements decreased operational and financial risk, reduced requirements for in-house capability and increased flexibility to scale support up or down. The assessment should be provided to the General Assembly in a future overview report.

52. Regarding the global field support strategy, he said that the Advisory Committee appreciated the efforts made to develop a broad concept to improve service delivery to field missions. The general direction of the measures under the strategy responded to the General Assembly's calls to intensify inter-mission cooperation and develop a regional approach to service delivery.

53. The proposed strategy comprised a range of mutually supportive proposals, of which some were interrelated and others could be further developed independently. The Advisory Committee's recommendations were grouped into three main clusters. The first cluster, concerning strengthened resource management frameworks, covered the Secretary-General's proposals on a standardized funding model and on modified arrangements for commitment authority and withdrawal of strategic deployment stocks. The Advisory Committee regarded the budgetary procedure based on the standardized funding model as a positive step. However, with regard to the modified arrangements for commitment authority, the Advisory Committee did not recommend a change to the existing procedure at the current stage. Since the proposed arrangements for drawing on strategic deployment stocks could result in delays in the replenishment of the stocks, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should be authorized to draw upon the stocks up to an amount of $50 million and that they should be replenished only when the initial appropriation was received, rather than from the commitment authority. The Secretary-General would thus be able to draw

upon $50 million from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and $50 million from the strategic deployment stocks.

54. The second cluster, regarding the new global service delivery model, covered proposals on the establishment of predefined modules and service packages, the establishment of a global service centre at the United Nations Logistics Base and the establishment of regional service centres. The Advisory Committee saw merit in the proposed predefined modules and service packages and recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to develop them further, bearing in mind the need to involve experts from troop- and police-contributing countries, to optimize the management of strategic deployment stocks and to analyse the cost-effectiveness of the services provided through modularized service packages. The integrity of the procurement process should be preserved and procurement opportunities for vendors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as local and small vendors, should continue to be promoted.

55. With regard to the establishment of a global service centre, the Secretary-General should be requested to further develop the concept and to submit a specific proposal setting out the functions and resources to be transferred, analysing how the services provided would be enhanced and providing a cost-benefit analysis and budgetary implications. With regard to the establishment of a regional service centre at Entebbe, the Advisory Committee had commented on the criteria used for the selection of that location as the first such centre, its scalability, its designation as a family duty station, the cost-benefit analysis, the funding mechanism for the centre, and the governance, management and reporting arrangements. It had also commented extensively on the individual functions proposed to be undertaken at Entebbe.

56. Concerning the proposal to deliver civilian predeployment training at the Entebbe regional service centre for the staff of the missions in the region, the Advisory Committee agreed that convening training courses closer to field missions would improve their cost-effectiveness. Based on the preliminary cost-benefit analysis provided, the Secretary-General should be encouraged to pursue that approach. With regard to the information and communications technology (ICT) initiatives in network standardization and data consolidation, disaster recovery and business continuity, offshore software development and regional shared resource management, the Advisory Committee saw merit in the consolidation and optimization of ICT systems, services and infrastructure. Such measures should be implemented in consultation with the Chief Information Technology Officer, and information on their results should be incorporated into the findings of the ongoing structural review of Organization-wide ICT capacities.

57. With regard to the establishment of the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre, currently at a preliminary stage of development, the Advisory Committee noted the expectation that the Control Centre would generate significant savings. The Secretary-General should be requested to further develop the concept in consultation with relevant clients and to further clarify its functions, staffing, resource requirements and coordination and management arrangements. The Secretary-General should also pursue any other measures related to the optimization of air operations and shared use of aircraft.

58. With regard to the back-office functions currently performed in field missions but proposed for transfer to Entebbe along with the appropriate staff, the Advisory Committee had consistently advocated greater cooperation among missions in the same region. It recommended that the Secretary-General should be authorized to proceed progressively, starting with one or two functions in order to gain experience with the provision of common services on a multi-mission basis. He should evaluate progress, review assumptions, make adjustments and refine working procedures on the basis of lessons learned, and report to the General Assembly after one year.

59. In connection with the third cluster, regarding the integrated human resources management framework, observations and recommendations would be made in the context of the Secretary-General's report on human resources management, due for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

60. As the global field support strategy was a major initiative that would have a significant impact on organizational structures, lines of accountability, working methods, processes and procedures, the Advisory Committee recommended that, should the General Assembly approve the proposals, the

Secretary-General should be requested to submit an annual progress report.

61. **Ms. Ahlenius** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 (A/64/326 (Part II)), said that the report presented selected findings from the 214 oversight reports on peace operations prepared during the reporting period. Oversight results continued to be classified into seven risk categories: strategy, governance, compliance, financial, operational, human resources and information.

62. The report highlighted deficiencies in internal controls in a range of areas that exposed the Organization to unnecessary risk. Lack of compliance with standard operating procedures, poor planning and inadequate management were just a few of the deficiencies identified.

63. While adherence to a formal internal control framework was necessary, it would not remedy all operational weaknesses. Some of the Office's negative findings were in areas where controls were in place but had been breached as a result of factors such as staff's lack of familiarity with policies, rules and procedures, improper training or poor management oversight. High vacancy and turnover rates in the field also exacerbated operational challenges in mission environments. Nevertheless, management must assume ownership of its responsibility for effective controls.

64. Accordingly, the time had come to expand the Secretary-General's compacts with senior managers to include a section where managers pronounced themselves as to the effectiveness and adequacy of internal controls for resources under their supervision. Such a declaration from management would provide an impetus for strengthening internal controls and accountability in the Organization.

65. **Mr. Al-Shahari** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group attached great importance to policy matters that were of a cross-cutting nature and related to the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations. In that connection, the Group reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, including those related to peacekeeping operations.

66. While each peacekeeping mission was unique, resolutions on cross-cutting issues could serve as an important policy tool, providing the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support with comprehensive guidance on issues that were common to all operations. Given that all peacekeeping missions must be provided with the resources they required to fulfil their mandates, the delays in providing resources to some missions, particularly those in Africa, were a matter of concern.

67. The Group supported the objectives of expediting and improving support services for peacekeeping missions by enhancing the quality and timeliness of delivery of goods and services, strengthening resource stewardship and accountability, improving the safety and living conditions of staff and fully utilizing local and regional investments and capacities, including local procurement.

68. It was important to expedite reimbursements to troop-contributing countries, which were being forced to bear additional burdens because some Member States had not paid their assessments on time. There was a need for sustained and intensified dialogue among Headquarters, peacekeeping missions and the principal stakeholders, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries, on means of enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions.

69. The resources provided to peacekeeping missions should be utilized in an effective manner: items held in storage by the Organization should not be allowed to go to waste, deteriorate or become obsolete.

70. The Group unreservedly supported a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. Training, awareness-raising, development activities and quick-impact projects could help prevent such exploitation and abuse. On the other hand, it was important to prevent unsubstantiated allegations of misconduct from damaging the credibility of peacekeeping operations and troop-contributing countries.

71. *Mr. Sene (Senegal), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

72. **Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that peacekeeping operations had reached unprecedented size and scope in recent years. In addition, several large missions were in the drawdown stage or being transformed into peacebuilding operations. Those circumstances placed considerable pressure on the Secretariat and Member States to develop a new approach to the evolving challenges facing peacekeeping operations.

73. He commended the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support for her personal engagement in developing the proposed global field support strategy and for her efforts to involve Member States in that process, inter alia through the conduct of informal briefings for the Fifth Committee. That experience should serve as a model for engagement with Member States in future policymaking processes. However, further consultations were required prior to the strategy's implementation.

74. While the European Union agreed with the aims of the proposed strategy as set out in the Secretary-General's report (A/64/633), it nonetheless would welcome greater clarity in some of the proposals, in particular with regard to the functions that were to be transferred to the proposed regional service centre, in addition to a more detailed cost-benefit analysis. It was also important to ensure that various aspects of the new strategy were in line with recent General Assembly decisions, in particular those concerning human resources management.

75. The European Union would seek assurances from the Secretariat that the strategy would yield real savings and improve the effectiveness of field support activities. Mechanisms that would allow Member States to hold the Secretary-General accountable in that regard must also be established.

76. Cognizant of the benefits that could be reaped from close cooperation among peacekeeping missions, the European Union was committed to reaching agreement on a resolution on cross-cutting issues, as a means of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

77. **Ms. Pakarati** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations were of great interest to the Group because several of its members were troop- and police-contributing countries. The main priorities for the Group were reimbursements to troop-contributing countries, living conditions of troops and death and disability compensation. In that connection, she recalled that the Secretariat had an obligation to settle all death and disability claims as soon as possible, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/276. She therefore welcomed the submission of updated information on reimbursements made and amounts owed, as well as on death and disability compensation.

78. She welcomed the transparency with which the proposed global field support strategy had been developed. There was a need to improve recruitment efficiency, open up new opportunities for developing-country vendors, ensure the best possible living conditions for field personnel and reduce mission vacancy rates.

79. The Rio Group strongly condemned all acts of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and related crimes, and was committed to the zero-tolerance policy and to the initiatives being taken to prevent such acts, as outlined in the Secretary-General's report (A/64/669). Unsubstantiated accusations against United Nations personnel were a matter of concern, as they harmed the credibility of peacekeeping operations, and the Group stressed the importance of providing redress to those involved.

80. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group attached great importance to cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations. Each peacekeeping mission was unique in terms of its mandate and operational environment. It was therefore important to make a distinction between issues that were truly cross-cutting and those that were mission-specific.

81. Recalling the valuable contribution made by police- and troop-contributing countries to the maintenance of international peace and security, he reiterated the Group's position that all peacekeeping operations should be given the resources they needed to fulfil their mandates effectively. Lastly, he recalled that the General Assembly had already acknowledged that the use of the logistics hub in Entebbe had been cost-effective and had resulted in savings, while helping to enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of peacekeeping operations.

82. **Mr. Lafortune** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the growing size and complexity of peacekeeping operations made it more urgent than ever for Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. Adopting a cross-cutting resolution would help the Organization to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, pursue targeted management reforms and address key thematic issues. Member States should not pass up the opportunity to adopt such a resolution. The related discussions should address all issues related to operational expenditures that were common to peacekeeping operations, including fuel and rations management and air operations, with a view to optimizing cost-effectiveness.

83. With regard to sexual exploitation and abuse, the three delegations agreed with the Advisory Committee's assessment that the Secretary-General's report (A/64/669) should have provided a more in-depth analysis of data and trends. Of particular concern was the fact that the percentage of cases involving minors had risen. That situation highlighted the vital role played by the Conduct and Discipline Teams and the need to allocate sufficient resources for enforcing conduct and discipline rules.

84. Addressing those issues in mission-specific budgets was challenging. It was therefore necessary to adopt a cross-cutting resolution that addressed key issues, including the budget process, recruitment, conduct and discipline, inter-mission cooperation, improvements to business processes and the proposed global field support strategy.

85. The global field support strategy responded to the need for a comprehensive review of the financing and support structures of the Organization's increasingly complex peacekeeping missions. Australia, Canada and New Zealand supported the strategy's core objectives, including improving the safety and living conditions of staff, strengthening accountability for resource management and achieving greater efficiency and economies of scale.

86. Although the three delegations appreciated the Secretariat's aim of achieving those objectives while respecting the principle of maintaining separate financial arrangements for each mission, many elements of the proposed strategy required further discussion. The service centre approach had the potential to provide common services in a cost-effective manner and address safety and security challenges in high-risk environments. However, clarifications and assurances were needed on various aspects of those centres, including expected efficiency gains and economies of scale, the scalability of the proposed regional service centre in Entebbe and measurable undertakings that governance and management arrangements for the regional centre would promote effective decision-making.

87. The three delegations agreed that the use of predefined modules for goods and services should expedite the development of mission infrastructure. However, they also agreed with the Advisory Committee that the cost-effectiveness of the services provided through modularized service packages, including overheads for standby arrangements, required a more thorough analysis. Recalling that the Secretary-General's report did not specifically invite the General Assembly to take action with regard to modularization, he urged the Secretary-General to ensure the effective and efficient linking of goods and services.

88. Lastly, the three delegations reiterated their strong support for efforts aimed at improving the effectiveness of the Office of Military Affairs, as outlined in the Secretary-General's most recent report on the subject (A/64/572 and Corr.1). However, they sought clarification regarding the prioritization of the enhancements detailed in the report, specifically in relation to increased administrative support and the conversion of existing military officer positions to civilian positions.

89. **Mr. Gürber** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that the two delegations agreed with the Secretary-General that a change in the Organization's field support strategy was warranted. They fully supported the overall thrust of the proposed global field support strategy, which was to improve the speed, quality and safety of field support while reducing costs, but they had questions about how the Secretariat intended to achieve those aims. More details were needed on the proposed regional service centres, including the criteria for their establishment and their adaptability to future requirements. The Secretary-General should also explain why he needed greater flexibility in drawing upon the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund.

90. The two delegations wished to discuss the connections and dependencies among the different components of the strategy and the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in its development and implementation. They would also seek assurances that the creation of new layers between Headquarters and missions would not result in duplication of effort or disputes over competence. The Committee's discussions should be confined to those aspects of the strategy that were clearly within its purview.

91. **Mr. Pankin** (Russian Federation) said that the overall budget performance of peacekeeping operations in 2008/09, with expenditure of $7.1 billion against an apportionment of $7.3 billion, was indicative of good budget planning and represented an improvement over the previous period's performance. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the interdepartmental and inter-mission working groups tasked with improving budget submissions, and would be grateful for further details on the results of their work.

92. Despite the liquidation of UNOMIG, the downsizing of UNMIL and the anticipated reduction in the scale of several other peacekeeping operations, the total proposed resource requirements for peacekeeping operations for the 2010/11 period amounted to $8.4 billion, an increase of 6.4 per cent in comparison with the apportionment for the 2009/10 period. His delegation would thoroughly scrutinize the justifications for that increase, particularly in respect of peacekeeping missions with no changes in their mandates, and would seek ways of reducing the proposed resource requirements without impairing missions' ability to fulfil their mandates.

93. His delegation supported the general aims of the proposed global field support strategy but had a number of concerns regarding the efficiency and cost of the proposed measures, and looked forward to discussing the new strategy in detail. As bureaucratic obstacles hindered the speedy payment of compensation for death and disability, the Committee should develop recommendations that would help rectify the situation.

94. With regard to administrative issues, his delegation intended to examine closely the management problems identified in the report of OIOS on peacekeeping operations (A/64/326 (Part II)) because those problems had an impact on the efficient operation of the Department of Field Support.

95. **Mr. Park** In-kook (Republic of Korea) said that the extraordinary growth in total resource requirements for peacekeeping operations and consistently low budget implementation rates were signs that the Secretary-General should implement stricter financial discipline and allocate resources more strategically.

96. His delegation had three main concerns regarding the financing of peacekeeping operations. First, budget formulation should be based on appropriate methodologies and assumptions. His delegation was concerned that the Secretariat had used World Bank exchange rate forecasts for 2011 to convert budgets expressed in local currencies to United States dollars. Reliance on such forecasts was unprecedented and inappropriate because, unlike other economic indicators, exchange rates were volatile and sometimes affected by factors other than supply and demand.

97. Second, according to the Secretary-General's overview report (A/64/643), a turnkey approach to the management of fuel operations had been implemented in several missions, thereby obliging vendors to absorb operational and maintenance costs. His delegation was of the view that tangible efficiency gains, such as reduced requirements for in-house capacity, must be demonstrated in order to justify the continued use of that approach.

98. Third, the high vacancy and turnover rates for international staff in 2009 might put the implementation of mission mandates at risk. His delegation encouraged the Secretariat to address that problem without delay, including through the establishment of a minimum period of assignment.

99. His delegation supported the proposed global field support strategy and agreed that the current commitment authority of $50 million might no longer be relevant in the context of large missions. However, some aspects of the proposed strategy required further clarification, including its impact on financial and human resources and on the governance structure of peacekeeping operations.

100. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan), recalling that his country had contributed over 11,000 uniformed personnel to 13 United Nations peacekeeping operations, said that his delegation supported, in principle, the idea of an overview report on all operational and related aspects

of peacekeeping operations. Resolutions on cross-cutting issues in the area of peacekeeping should provide overall guidance on how improvements could be made through business process and other administrative measures; they should not be aimed at micromanaging peacekeeping operations.

101. Although his delegation appreciated the difficulty of reaching agreement on all cross-cutting issues, it was concerned that the Assembly had not taken action on the overview reports at its previous two sessions. In view of the Committee's full agenda, it would perhaps be more reasonable to consider the overview reports biennially. Certain issues, including death and disability compensation, should be considered under the relevant agenda items.

102. With regard to death and disability claims, his delegation supported the Secretariat's use of the most current edition of the American Medical Association Guide to Evaluation of Permanent Impairment as the authoritative reference for all disability cases related to uniformed personnel. However, it was concerned that the Secretary-General had not comprehensively addressed the issues raised by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/276. The amount payable for death claims had remained unchanged since 1990. Claims could take as long as three years to settle, instead of the three months called for by the Assembly.

103. He reiterated the need for a comprehensive review of death and disability compensation, the elimination of the existing backlog of claims, the simplification of procedures and the speedy processing of death and disability cases. All those who served in the United Nations should be eligible for death and disability compensation, except in cases of wilful neglect or self-inflicted injury.

104. The rates of reimbursement for personnel and contingent-owned equipment had also remained unchanged for too long. His delegation trusted that the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment would address those concerns. The Secretariat should settle all outstanding reimbursement claims expeditiously.

105. Nationals of troop-contributing countries should be appointed to top managerial positions, both at Headquarters and in the field, in order to create a stronger link between those who directed peacekeeping operations and those who served in the field. Information on the steps taken by the Secretary-General to ensure proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/287, should be included in future overview reports.

106. The proposed global field support strategy was an important initiative with laudable objectives, but its implementation required significant changes to current procedures for the approval of resources and the delivery of services. It would have been helpful if the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had approved the concept, but in any event it had taken note of the Secretary-General's report and requested the Fifth Committee to take decisions on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the strategy.

107. Unfortunately, the report lacked the detailed information that the Committee required in order to take such decisions. For example, there was not enough information in support of the Secretary-General's request for authority to enter into commitments up to the available balance of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund as well as the balance of the stores available from the strategic deployment stocks. He trusted that future reports on the subject would provide greater detail. His delegation would also appreciate further information on the level of equipment, goods and services that the Secretary-General proposed to acquire through the increased commitment authority.

108. His delegation saw merit in the Secretary-General's proposal to develop a standardized funding model for pre-approval by the General Assembly. The proposal should be sufficiently detailed to assure Member States that financial resources would be used efficiently and that internal controls would be in place.

109. His delegation supported the objective of improving service delivery to clients, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries. He requested further information on problems identified in existing models of service delivery and on the qualitative improvements and other advantages that the proposed strategy was expected to bring.

110. The operational functions currently performed at Headquarters were vital for ensuring effective operational control and accountability. The proposed service centres were not in a position to assume those functions. His delegation would therefore not support any change in the role of Headquarters in providing oversight and strategic guidance to field missions. The

Secretary-General should explain why operational functions should be moved away from Headquarters and set out the expected benefits and resource implications of such a move. Current operational arrangements must not be changed until all details of the new arrangement had been conveyed to Member States.

111. The Secretary-General's report did not provide sufficient information on the proposed re-profiling of the United Nations Logistics Base as the global service centre for field missions or on the amalgamation of tenant units into the operational functions of the Logistics Base. Those units' current reporting lines to Headquarters should be maintained for the sake of functional and operational efficiency.

112. His delegation welcomed the proposed establishment of a regional service centre at Entebbe inasmuch as such a centre could provide support in areas such as air operations. The designation of Entebbe as a family duty station would also facilitate the realization of the expected benefits of the regional service centre approach. The human resources component of the proposed strategy required further elaboration, particularly in view of the human resources management reforms that would be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. The overall objectives of the creation of the Department of Field Support and the global field support strategy, and their linkage to the objectives of General Assembly resolution 61/279, should be clarified in future reports.

113. As troop- and police-contributing countries were the primary users of support services, the Secretariat should consult with them extensively as it further developed the concept of modularization and reprofiled the Logistics Base and the Entebbe logistics hub. While his delegation would welcome informal briefings in that regard, such briefings were not a substitute for formal consultative processes such as that of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

114. **Mr. Melrose** (United States of America) said that the cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations were integral to successful mission management and merited careful consideration. Although the General Assembly had unfortunately failed to adopt a cross-cutting resolution at its last two sessions, his delegation looked forward to working with other delegations in order to adopt such a resolution at the current session.

115. His delegation also looked forward to discussing the proposed global field support strategy. It supported the strategy's core objectives and would seek to reach an agreement with other Committee members that would lead to the successful launch of that initiative.

116. Many, if not all, of the thematic issues that the Committee had traditionally discussed under the current agenda item were also key elements of the proposed strategy. In that connection, he recalled that requirements for air operations in the 2010/11 period were expected to amount to over $1 billion. While significant efforts had been made in the past to reduce the cost of air operations, a regional approach to the management of such operations would not only yield savings but also ensure the safe and efficient movement of uniformed and civilian personnel.

117. With regard to sexual exploitation and abuse, he noted with regret that such heinous acts continued to occur despite the Organization's efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, enforce United Nations standards of conduct and address the needs of victims. His delegation recognized the important work being performed by the Conduct and Discipline Teams, OIOS and other United Nations personnel, both at Headquarters and in the field. The activities of the Conduct and Discipline Teams in particular were core responsibilities that should be carried out on a permanent basis.

118. In view of the proposed global field support strategy, which would significantly change the support structure for peacekeeping missions, it was imperative to continue strengthening internal controls and to address and correct deficiencies. His delegation was concerned about the breaches highlighted in the OIOS report (A/64/326 (Part II)) and urged the Secretariat to take corrective measures without delay.

119. His Government welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for a unified regional ICT structure for four missions that were in close geographical proximity (UNIFIL, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), UNFICYP and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)), and called for further efforts to rationalize and consolidate ICT systems, services and infrastructure in the field.

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*)
(A/C.5/64/L.36)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.36: Financing arrangements for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

120. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.36 was adopted.*

121. **Ms. Pakarati** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group appreciated the swift and unanimous adoption of the draft resolution. The additional resources approved were vital to the reconstruction and recovery efforts under way in Haiti. The Committee's unanimity also conveyed the international community's continuing support for the people and Government of Haiti.

122. She recalled that it was the Committee's understanding that the adoption of the draft resolution would not affect the timing of the consideration of the budget performance report for MINUSTAH.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.